

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9976

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2932

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), LI

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEON

REF: KINSHASA SECTO 11121

1. DEEPLY REGRET NECESSITY FOR CANCELLING LUNCHEON WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN. IF CANCELLATION BASED ENTIRELY ON PARTY'S ARRIVAL AT 12 NOON, WISH POINT OUT ONE HOUR TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KINSHASA AND MONROVIA. IF THEREFORE POSSIBLE THAT PARTY COULD DEPART KINSHASA AT 8:00 A.M., KINSHASA TIME, PARTY COULD ARRIVE MONROVIA AT 10:45 A.M., MONROVIA TIME, AS NOW SCHEDULED. IN FACT, ARRIVAL AS LATE AS 11:30 A.M. WOULD STILL ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR LUNCHEON, WHICH COULD EASILY BE RE-SCHEDULED FOR 12:30 P.M.

2. EMBASSY FEELS BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEON CAN MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHERANCE OF OUR NATIONAL INTEREST IN LIBERIA IN PARTICULAR AND IN AFRICA IN GENERAL. U.S. INVESTMENTS IN LIBERIA, AMONG THE HIGHEST IN WEST AFRICA, HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LIBERIA. THE LUNCHEON WOULD SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THESE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN THE IMPORTANCE SECRETARY ATTACHES TO THEIR ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, IT WOULD INDICATE TO GOL THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SOLIDLY SUPPORTING AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN ABROAD. THIS REASSURANCE IS NEEDED NOW IN LIBERIA WHEN INVESTMENT CLIMATE HAS BEGUN TO DETERIORATE TO POINT WHERE TWO LARGE FIRMS ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING NEW INVESTMENTS.

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IT WOULD GIVE THE SECRETARY AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FIRST

HAND ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN OPERATING IN A COUNTRY LIKE LIBERIA. RESPONSE TO LUNCHEON HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING AND MOST ENTHUSIASTIC. ITS CANCELLATION WOULD INEVITABLY AROUSE KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT AND A FEELING OF BEING LET DOWN.

3. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT NOTIFIED GOL OF CHANGE IN ARRIVAL TIME AND PROPOSE NOT RPT NOT TO DO SO UNTIL RECEIPT RESPONSE THIS TELEGRAM. WITH GOL ALREADY AWARE CANCELLATION ACCRA STOP, IT WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR GOL TO UNDERSTAND WHY MONROVIA STOP BEING SHORTENED RATHER THAN LENGTHENED. GOL LIKELY TO BE DISAPPOINTED AND POSSIBLE FEEL SOME EMBARRASSMENT SINCE CHANGE COULD BE READ (HOWEVER ILLOGICALLY) AS HAVING SOME CONNECTION WITH ACCRA CANCELLATION. CARTER

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